



AUT: Super City?

Stakeholder Survey

Mid-August Report of Results

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Introduction

The AUT team designed a Survey Monkey questionnaire to tap Stakeholders views on Auckland governance just before the 2013 Local Elections. The Questionnaire sought to measure several indicators specified in the Department of Internal Affairs indicator framework but was developed to provide a more comprehensive assessment. Most of the Questions are Statements which you can Agree or Disagree with on a 10-point Scale (where 10=Strongly Agree and 0=Strongly Disagree) together with a few other questions and room for open-ended comments to be added. It is designed in 12 Sections:

- (1) Expected outcomes from the local government reforms in Auckland
- (2) The quality of governance at the local level in Auckland
- (3) The quality of governance for the whole of Auckland
- (4) The local and regional levels of governance in the Auckland Council working together.
- (5) The diversity of elected representation.
- (6) The Auckland Council being accountable to citizens.
- (7) Council services and activities
- (8) The Mayor, executive powers and governance issues for Auckland
- (9) The effectiveness of Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)
- (10) The Auckland Plan and the Draft Unitary Plan
- (11) What could be improved in Auckland's governance and the issues Auckland has and will face
- (12) Demographics

Email invitations to participate were sent to all local representatives on the Auckland Council, MPs located in Auckland and a listing of further stakeholders. (Further stakeholders were asked to distribute the invitation around their board if they wished.)

Some 40 respondents had responded by mid-August. The survey remains open and so the results will be updated once the election period is entered. Because of the highly voluntary nature of the study the results provide an indication of the range of views rather than the viewpoints of particular sectors of stakeholders.

The midpoint for the scales is 5.5 so that any number greater than this indicates an average of Agreement rather than disagreement.

Key Findings:

The data obtained is notable for the extent to which responses tended to be spread across the full range of options available. This summary below picks out areas where agreement or disagreement with a statement was strong.

Local Government Reforms, Council and Mayor

On average respondents agreed that:

- The local government reforms in Auckland have been beneficial for Auckland (6.61)
- The new system of local government in Auckland is better than the old system (6.36)
- The role of Auckland councillors is clear to Auckland council staff (6.10)
- The local government reforms in Auckland have enabled better decisions to be made at a regional level for Auckland (6.72)
- Having one council has improved Auckland's ability to negotiate with central Government on major decisions that affect Auckland (7.08)
- The Mayor is a strong leader for Auckland (6.55)
- The Mayoral Office provides good quality advice to the Mayor (6.16)
- Having one Mayor has improved Auckland's ability to negotiate with central government on major decisions that affect Auckland (7.13).
- On average respondents disagreed that the Auckland Council and Central government work in partnership in the governance of Auckland. (4.28)

Local Boards

On average respondents agreed that:

- The role of Local Boards is clear to local board elected members (6.36)
- The role of Local Boards is clear to citizens (6.64)

On average respondents disagreed that:

- Local boards have improved democracy in Auckland (4.39)
- Local boards have sufficient control over council decisions at the local level (4.73)
- Local boards have sufficient input into region-wide decisions (4.65)
- Local boards have sufficient funding (5.00)
- Local boards have sufficient staff support (4.35).

Representation on Local Boards

On average respondents agreed that older people have sufficient representation on Local Boards (6.51)

On average respondents disagreed that:

- Maori have sufficient representation on Local Boards (4.75)
- Pacific Peoples have sufficient representation on Local Boards (4.44)
- Ethnic Minorities have sufficient representation on Local Boards (4.39)
- Younger people have sufficient representation on Local Boards (4.43).

Representation on the Auckland Council

On average respondents agreed that older people have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council (6.95)

On average respondents disagreed that:

- Pacific Peoples have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council (4.55)
- Ethnic Minorities have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council (4.41)

- Younger people have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council (4.38)
- There is sufficient diversity in our elected representatives across the Auckland Council (4.50).

Taking account of Advice

On average respondents agreed that:

- The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from the Business Advisory Panel (6.27)
- The Independent Maori Statutory Board ensures the Auckland Council complies with statutory provisions that refer to the Treaty of Waitangi (6.41).

On average respondents disagreed that:

- The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from the Pacific Peoples Advisory Panel (4.64)
- The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel (4.58).

Social Policy Forum not seen as effective in addressing social issues

On average respondents disagreed that the Social Policy forum is effective in addressing social issues in Auckland (3.58).

Powers of Mayor, Chief Executive and Council

On average respondents thought:

- Executive powers for the Mayor should stay the same (56.8 %)
- Executive powers for the Chief Executive of the Auckland Council should stay the same (65.8%)
- Decision-making powers of the Auckland Council in matters affecting Auckland should be increased (43.2%).

Most Council Controlled Organisations (CCO) have effective governance

On the statement “governance of CCOs is effective”, all CCOs except ATEED and Auckland Transport rated 5.81 or above (meaning, on average, governance is considered effective). ATEED and Auckland Transport rated 5.35 and 5.36 respectively (meaning, on average, their governance is not considered effective).

CCOs have effective working relationships with Auckland Council

On average respondents agreed that all CCOs have an effective working relationship with the Auckland Council (all CCO’s rated 5.86 and above)

Council oversight of CCOs not effective

On average respondent disagreed that Council oversight of CCOs is effective (all CCOs rated below 5)

CCO’s are not accountable to citizens

On average respondents disagreed that CCOs are accountable to citizens (all CCOs rated 3.97 or below)

CCOs are not effective

On average respondents disagreed that CCOs are effective (all CCO’s rated 5.12 or below)

The Auckland Plan and the Draft Unitary Plan

On average, respondents agreed that:

- The Auckland Plan is the right plan for Auckland (6.57)
- The Auckland Council has consulted widely on the Auckland Plan” (7.17)
- The Auckland Council will be able to implement the Auckland Plan” (5.54)
- The Auckland Council has consulted widely on the Unitary Plan” (6.62).

Detailed Results:**1: Expected outcomes from the local government reforms in Auckland****Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The local government reforms in Auckland have been beneficial for Auckland	41	1	10	6.61	2.538
The new system of local government in Auckland is better than the old system	42	1	10	6.36	2.748
Ratepayers are getting value-for-money from the Auckland Council	41	1	8	5.15	1.982
The Auckland Council and Central Government work in partnership in the governance of Auckland	43	1	10	4.28	2.649
I am clear about what Local Boards do	41	2	10	7.32	2.514
Valid N (listwise)	39				

2: The quality of governance at the local level in Auckland

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The role of Local Boards is clear to local board elected members	36	2	9	6.36	2.045
The role of Local Boards is clear to citizens	39	2	10	6.64	2.194
Local Boards have improved local democracy in Auckland	41	1	8	4.39	1.948
The right balance has been struck between the role of Local Boards and the role of the Auckland Council	41	2	10	5.54	2.647
Local Boards have sufficient control over council decisions at the local level	41	1	10	4.73	2.450
Local Boards have sufficient input into region-wide decisions	40	1	9	4.65	2.248
Local Boards have sufficient funding	40	1	10	5.00	2.501
Local Boards have sufficient staff support	37	1	10	4.35	2.371
Local Boards have advice available to them from Council to inform their decisions	34	1	10	5.29	2.493
Local Boards have external advice available to them to inform their decisions	34	1	10	5.76	2.147

3: The quality of governance for the whole of Auckland

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The role of the Auckland Council is clear to its citizens	43	0	9	5.33	2.265
The role of Auckland Councillors is clear to Auckland Council staff	41	1	9	6.10	1.960
The local government reforms in Auckland have enabled better decisions to be made at a regional level for Auckland	39	1	10	6.72	2.460
Auckland Councillors make decisions that benefit the region (rather than their ward)	39	2	9	5.51	1.805
Auckland Councillors have sufficient control over decisions of regional significance in Auckland	41	1	10	5.90	2.211
Auckland Councillors have quality advice available to them from Council to inform their decisions	37	1	10	5.89	2.354
Auckland Councillors have quality external advice available to them to inform their decisions	33	1	10	5.88	2.459
The role of Auckland Councillors is clear to the councillors themselves	39	2	9	5.87	1.838
Local Board members and Auckland Councillors are working together	40	0	8	5.35	1.902
I have confidence in the system of regional and local governance in Auckland	43	0	10	5.58	2.612
Valid N (listwise)	29				

5: The diversity of elected representation.

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Women have sufficient representation on Local Boards	33	1	10	5.85	2.320
Māori have sufficient representation on Local Boards	36	1	10	4.75	2.454
Pacific Peoples have sufficient representation on Local Boards	36	1	10	4.44	2.210
Ethnic minorities have sufficient representation on Local Boards	36	1	10	4.39	2.181
Younger people have sufficient representation on Local Boards	37	1	10	4.43	2.154
Older people have sufficient representation on Local Boards	37	1	10	6.51	2.181
Women have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	38	1	10	5.89	2.458
Maori have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	38	1	10	5.42	2.900
Pacific Peoples have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	38	1	10	4.55	2.214
Ethnic minorities have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	37	1	10	4.41	2.242
Younger people have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	39	1	10	4.38	2.290
Older people have sufficient representation on the Auckland Council	40	1	10	6.95	2.552

There is sufficient diversity in our elected representatives across the Auckland Council (on both Local Boards and the Auckland Council)	38	1	10	4.50	2.334
Valid N (listwise)	30				

(6) The Auckland Council being accountable to citizens.

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The new Auckland Council has improved consultation processes	38	1	10	5.42	2.596
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Independent M?ori Statutory Board	27	1	9	5.22	2.242
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Pacific Peoples Advisory Panel	25	1	9	4.64	2.079
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel	24	1	9	4.58	2.041
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Disability Strategic Advisory Group	27	1	9	5.00	2.353
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Business Advisory Panel	26	2	10	6.27	2.308
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Rural Advisory Panel	20	3	9	5.80	2.067
The Auckland Council takes sufficient account of advice it receives from The Youth Advisory Panel	24	2	9	5.21	1.744
The Auckland Council is accountable to its citizens	38	1	10	6.03	2.918
The Auckland Council is customer-focussed	39	1	10	5.05	2.176
Valid N (listwise)	18				

7: Council services and activities

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The Auckland Council provides cost-effective planning and regulatory services	37	1	10	4.92	2.165
The Auckland Council provides value-for-money in its community, arts and recreation services	36	1	9	5.56	2.021
The Auckland Council provides cost-effective infrastructure	37	1	10	5.30	2.012
The Auckland Council provides sound asset management	38	1	10	5.53	2.298
The Auckland Council provides value-for-money in its economic development activities	36	1	10	5.00	2.191
The Auckland Council provides cost-effective democracy services	36	1	10	5.72	2.237
Under the new Auckland Council services are better than before 2010	37	1	10	5.43	2.398
The local government reforms in Auckland are providing value-for-money for the citizens of Auckland	38	1	10	5.37	2.487
Valid N (listwise)	29				

(8) The Mayor, executive powers and governance issues for Auckland

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The independent Maori Statutory Board is effective in promoting the cultural, economic, environmental and social issues that are significant to Maori	30	1	10	5.47	2.209
The independent Maori Statutory Board ensures the Auckland Council complies with statutory provisions that refer to the Treaty of Waitangi	29	3	10	6.41	1.570
The Social Policy Forum is effective in addressing social issues in Auckland	26	1	7	3.58	2.120
The Mayor is a strong leader for Auckland	38	1	10	6.55	2.845
The Mayoral Office provides good quality advice to the Mayor	31	1	10	6.16	2.544
Having one Council has improved Auckland's ability to negotiate with central government on major decisions that affect Auckland	39	1	10	7.08	3.003
Having one Mayor has improved Auckland's ability to negotiate with central government on major decisions that affect Auckland	39	1	10	7.13	2.867
The new executive powers for the Mayor work well	34	1	10	5.82	2.736
Valid N (listwise)	14				

	Decreased	Stay the same	Increased
	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
Executive powers for the Mayor should be:	35.1%	56.8%	8.1%
The executive powers of the Chief Executive of the Auckland Council should be:	26.3%	65.8%	7.9%
Decision-making powers of the Auckland Council in matters affecting Auckland should be:	5.4%	51.4%	43.2%

9: The effectiveness of Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
CCO governance is effective					
Auckland Council Investments Ltd	37	1	11	6.27	3.906
Auckland Council Property Ltd	37	1	11	6.51	3.783
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	37	1	11	5.35	3.147
Auckland Transport	36	1	11	5.36	2.779
Auckland Waterfront Development Agency	37	1	11	5.81	3.256
Regional Facilities Auckland	35	1	11	6.17	3.148
Watercare Services Ltd	37	1	11	5.81	3.315
CCOs have an effective working relationship with the Auckland Council					
:ACI	37	1	11	6.73	3.656
Auckland Council Property Ltd	37	1	11	7.03	3.508
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	37	1	11	6.35	3.318
Auckland Transport	37	1	11	5.86	2.790
Auckland Waterfront Development Agency	36	1	11	6.89	3.196
Regional Facilities Auckland	36	1	11	6.69	2.994
Watercare Services Ltd	36	1	11	6.19	2.955
Council oversight of CCOs is effective					
:ACI	36	1	10	4.81	2.745
Auckland Council Property Ltd	36	1	10	4.86	2.779
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	36	1	10	4.58	2.500
Auckland Transport	36	1	10	4.56	2.720
Auckland Waterfront Development Agency	36	1	10	4.83	2.699
Regional Facilities Auckland	36	1	10	4.89	2.482
Watercare Services Ltd	34	1	10	4.91	2.586
CCOs are accountable to citizens					
:ACI	36	1	10	3.33	2.541
Auckland Council Property Ltd	36	1	10	3.44	2.501
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	36	1	10	3.61	2.533
Auckland Transport	36	1	10	3.86	2.520
Auckland Waterfront Development Agency	36	1	10	3.75	2.698
Regional Facilities Auckland	35	1	10	3.74	2.605
Watercare Services Ltd	36	1	10	3.97	2.741

CCOs are effective					
:ACI	34	1	10	4.38	2.697
Auckland Council Property Ltd	34	1	10	4.62	2.818
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	35	1	9	4.23	2.438
Auckland Transport	35	1	10	4.57	2.682
Auckland Waterfront Development Agency	34	1	10	4.71	2.866
Regional Facilities Auckland	34	1	9	4.62	2.387
Watercare Services Ltd	33	1	10	5.12	2.859
Valid N (listwise)	27				

10: The Auckland Plan and the Draft Unitary Plan

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
The Auckland Plan is the right plan for Auckland	37	1	10	6.57	2.255
The Auckland Council has consulted widely on the Auckland Plan	36	1	10	7.17	2.432
The Auckland Council will be able to implement the Auckland Plan	37	1	9	5.54	2.317
The Unitary Plan is the right plan for Auckland	35	1	10	5.46	2.704
The Auckland Council has consulted widely on the Unitary Plan	37	1	10	6.62	2.919
Valid N (listwise)	34				

(11) What could be improved in Auckland's governance and the issues Auckland has and will face.

Only open-ended responses

12: Demographics

		Column N %
Were you involved in designing or implementing the Super-city reforms?	NA	7.5%
	No	52.5%
	Yes	40.0%
What gender are you?	F	51.4%
	M	48.6%
Which age group do you fall into?	30-39	16.7%
	40-49	5.6%
	50-59	30.6%
	60-69	33.3%
	70	13.9%
With which ethnic group(s) do you identify?	European	91.7%
	Other	5.6%
	Pacific Peoples	2.8%
Which organisation/s are you a member of, or do you work for? (Please tick all that apply)		7.1%
	Advisory Board Member	3.6%
	Central Government Elected Representative	3.6%
	Local Government Elected Representative	53.6%
	Non-Government Stakeholder Organisation	28.6%
	Public servant	3.6%